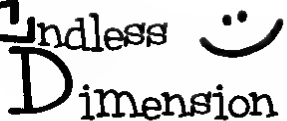
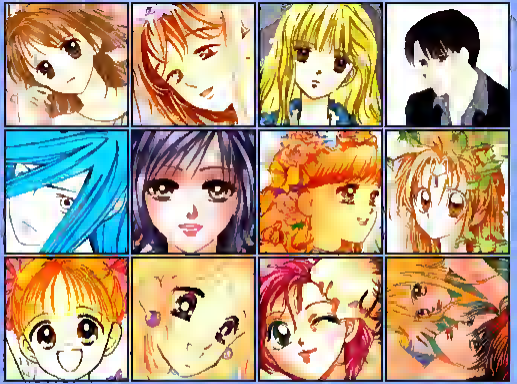
Please excuse the horrible delay.
Summer vacation is just too hard to resist.. o_O
In any case, Endless Dimension hopes that you enjoyed this one-shot :)

Sincerely, ashura




~Endless Dimension Profects~

RUMORS

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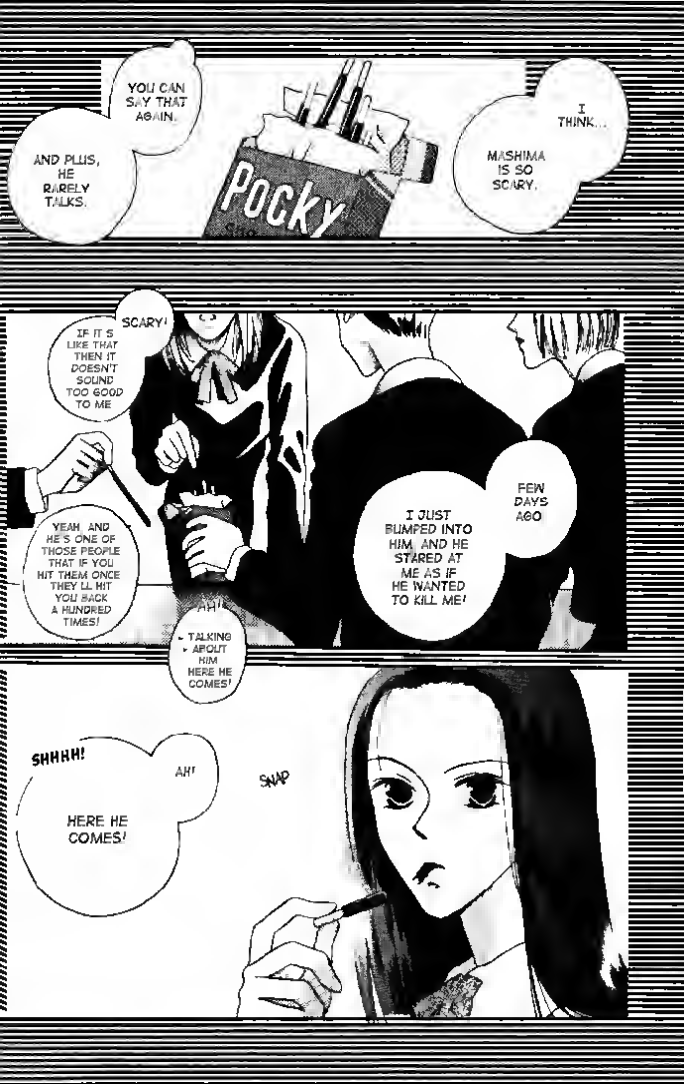

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.
AND PLUS, HE RARELY TALKS.
Pocky
I THINK...
MASHIMA IS SO SCARY.
SCARY!
IF IT'S LIKE THAT THEN IT DOESN'T SOUND TOO GOOD TO ME.
YEAH. AND HE'S ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE THAT IF YOU HIT THEM ONCE THEY'LL HIT YOU BACK A HUNDRED TIMES!
FEW DAYS AGO
I JUST BUMPED INTO HIM, AND HE STARED AT ME AS IF HE WANTED TO KILL ME!
AH!
TALKING ABOUT HIM HERE HE COMES!
SHHHH!
AH!
HERE HE COMES!
SNAP

THE GIRLS IN OUR GRADE REALLY SUCK!
HA HA!
YEAH.
THE BEST IS CLASS 2'S SAITOU.
THEN IT'S...
WHAT ABOUT CLASS 4'S NIKAWA?
SHE'S OKAY LOOKING.
NOT VERY BEAUTIFUL...
BUT SHE'S LIKE A JAPANESE DOLL.
YEAH, YEAH!
AH...
JUST TALKING ABOUT HER, HERE SHE IS!

HO HO HO
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SHE DOESN'T LOOK TOO UGLY, DOES SHE?
MASHIMA
NIKAWA, DON'T STARE INTO HIS EYES.
OF COURSE ... JUDGING FROM HIS STARE, SOMETHING BAD IS GOING TO HAPPEN.
HORETSU

December 8, 7:58 AM
TOO CARELESS...
Oh well.
HUH?
SILENCE
IT'S SO QUIET HERE...
Because he read the clock wrong.
.....?
Mashima went to school an hour early on that day.
RATTLE
IS IT HERE?
WHAT CAN IT BE?
SOME-THING WITH THE SMELL OF OIL IN IT...
STEP
STEP
Hmm
THERE'S SOME KIND OF SMELL IN HERE...

SI—LENCE
IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK EVEN IF YOU TELL IT TO SHUT UP
BUT I JUST CAN'T STAND YOUR STOMACH GROWLS
SHUT UP!
GURURU
GURURU
I'M SURE IT ISN'T EASY TO LIVE BY YOURSELF AND TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING
SINCE BOTH OF YOUR PARENTS AREN'T IN JAPAN.
THE MEETING IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. ALL STUDENTS PLEASE GO TO THE GYMNASIUM

04

Let's talk about music. People tend to ask me that when I'm working, do I always listen to classicals? That's not it. I like to listen to radio also especially the FM (FM Fukuoka or 802 Osaka. It's a really fun one!) As for piano, I like it the best when one plays right after somebody who's really good. It makes me tremble to bare the intermission! I think people who can still play well like that are the most amazing players. (Do you get what I'm saying ?)

Even though he was in great shock...
There's nothing worse than eating cold beef rice.
From that moment on, I haven't eaten any good meals.
The muscles in his face didn't stay like that.
Ah, he's looking this way.

cho-ched
Sh... shoot! somehow, I smiled with her..
What?
He's in a good mood today!
murmur
murmur
chatter
IS IT TRUE?
YOU PROBABLY SAW IT WRONG.
MASHIMA AND NIKAWA SMILED AT EACH OTHER
DID YOU SEE THAT?
Words from others are...
A Japanese doll that would eat beef rice in the morning?
NOT QUITE THE SAME!
THE WRINKLES BETWEEN HIS EYEBROWS MULTIPLIED BY 1.5 TIMES.
What is that girl doing...?
Words from others are...
And that smile just then, full of joy...

December 9, 7:52 AM
Mashima went to school an hour early...
.....
STEP
STEP
This time, it wasn't because he read the clock wrong.
It was to confirm what he saw yesterday about Nikawa.
SLIDE
Ahh
It was true.
.....

SHOCK
TAKE SOME CHOP-STICKS
OKAY, SIT DOWN
Gasp
No!
NO...
IT WASN'T...
...BECAUSE YOU WANTED A SHARE ISN'T IT, MASHIMA?
Stare
YOU PURPOSELY CAME AT THE TIME WHEN I EAT...
THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS AT HOME FOR YOU, ISN'T THERE?
OH YEAH, WHY...
THIS MEAL TASTES ESPECIALLY GOOD
SIP
With beans is 390 yen!
SITS
IS BEEF RICE YOUR FAVORITE?
NO NO, IT'S OKAY
ME?!
BUYING ONE OR TWO TAKES THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME
DO YOU WANT ME TO BUY YOU A SHARE TOMORROW TOO?
OH,
YEP.
IT WOULD BE BETTER WITH EGGS THOUGH
Gulp
Munch

DO YOU WANT IT WITH OR WITHOUT ONIONS?
Excuse me! Are you the one without onions? I'm more than half way through waiting for my meal.
AH!
THEN WITHOUT ONION...
NO...NO! ACTUALLY, I DON'T NEED...
MASHIMA?
HAVE YOU BEEN LISTENING?
A NOTICE OF A LIFE...
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE MANY FACES OF A HUMAN...
MAKOTO TAKANO...
IS ALREADY A HUMAN BIOLOBIST...
YOU SHOULD LOOK AT GIRLS ONCE IN AWHILE...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU KEEP THINKING ABOUT THESE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS,
oh!
STOP SCARING EVERYONE AROUND YOU
YOUR MOOD IS WORSE THAN EVER TODAY!
far away
OH, SORRY.

ALSO SHE'S REALLY SKINNY
DOES SHE EVER EAT?
AH?
so scary
SHE LOOKS MISERABLE, EVERY INCH OF HER.
hmm
AH, I'''S NIKAWA.
OH OH
sfx dong
Every inch of her is miserable?
It's so scary... I never knew.
You seem strange today...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU MASHIMA?
NO NO- THING
THANKS
Miserable every inch?
IS IT OKAY WITHOUT ONIONS?
sfx shack shack

Even though I take care of myself, it doesn't reduce my wrinkles.
PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE MY STARE AND FACIAL EXPRESSION IS TOO SCARY
YEAH
chew chew
AM I?
BUT IT'S STRANGE
YOU'RE THE ONLY GIRL I CAN COMMUNICATE NORMALLY WITH
Ah.
OR I STARE AT THEM OR THEY WANT TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
MOST OF THE GIRLS MAKE ME SOUND REALLY MISERABLE
So he's not so careless after all.
MASHIVA
HEH
It's surprising
I DON'T THINK I HURT ANYONE
I HEARD IT ALL..
SO YOU HEARD

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE TROUBLED BY THEM
IT'S ONLY RUMORS, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW STUPID IT IS OR HOW MUCH IT SUCKS,
IT'S ALL BECAUSE THERE ARE PEOPLE NOTICING IT ABOUT YOU
stupid...
ALSO...
EVEN THOUGH YOUR STARE IS SCARY, YOU'RE HANDSOME
Yeah
THANKS FOR SAYING THAT
NO PROBLEM
BUT FORMAL AND SERIOUS, IT'S HARD TO APPROACH

Huh?
Personality ?
EVEN IF YOU REVEAL YOUR REAL PERSONALITY
I WILL REMEMBER YOUR STUBBORN PERSONALITY.
THANK YOU
TALKING WITH YOU REALLY HELPS!
I AM SO HAPPY TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE A LIFE
ME TOO, MASHIMA
DEMON ?!
I WILL BUY SOME SALAD TOMORROW.
the beef one
sees other people smile so he follows
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE AN INCURABLE DEMON.

sfx: smile ironically

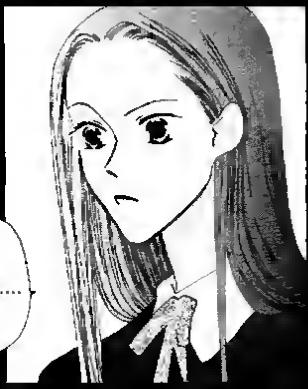
I will go throw out the trash.
Oh, thanks then.
HUH?
DAMN IT,
READ THE CLOCK WRONG
step
step
HUH?
sfx. stare
しっ
NOTHING
I don't have money today
Ara-Ara
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU GUYS?
...?
ring

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS
I NEVER THOUGHT THEY WERE AT THIS LEVEL ALREADY
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH
ARG!
We were fooled!
THAT KID ACTS LIKE HE HAS NO INTEREST WHAT-SO-EVER IN HER!
HE DIDN'T CHANGE YOU KNOW
DID YOUR EYES PLAY TRICKS ON YOU?
HE'S PROBABLY FAKE!
STU--STUPID!
.....
.....
HEY HEY.
WE JUST HEARD SOMETHING STRANGE
AH, WHAT WHAT?
HUH?
MASHIMA AND NIKAWA?
IMPOSSIBLE!
BUT DOESN'T IT MAKE IT SOUND EVEN MORE POSSIBLE WHEN EVERYONE SAYS IT'S POSSIBLE?
HM
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, YEAH...
ON THE BAG WERE AN PLUM FLAVOR

EH
I THOUGHT NIKAWA HATED GUYS!
GIRLS
AH, NOTHING, BUT...
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT IS IT?
If you eat too much onion it will hurt
_Really?
YEP
EH?!
IT'S TRUE
That's shocking
AH!
MASHIMA AND NIKAWA!
I'VE BEEN HEARING THE RUMORS FROM THE GIRLS

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW...
WHEN DID THEY START DATING?
SHOOT, HE TOOK HER FIRST
BY THE LOOKS OF IT... AT LEAST FOR 3 MONTHS NOW
I HEARD HE PROPOSED TO NIKAWA 3 MONTHS AGO
WOW THIS IS SUR-- PRISING
HEY!
DOES THIS MEAN THAT THEY... LIVE TOGETHER?
I HEARD THEY EAT BREAKFAST TOGETHER
OOH
ISN'T M. SHIMA MOVING TOO FAST!?

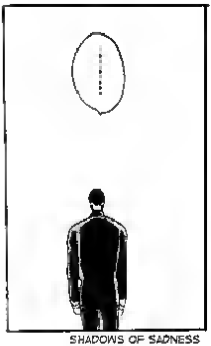
Rumors just like the subway, a fashionable pulse spreading fast...



tremble
tremble
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST COVER IT WITH YOUR HAND
OH, SORRY
sneeze
AH!
AH-CHOO!
HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG?
PROBABLY SOMEONE IS TALKING ABOUT ME
BEING SO SHY AT A TIME LIKE THIS,
you were never like this before
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE CHILDHOOD!
NEVER MIND IT'S OKAY
THANKS
HOW DID SHE KNOW THAT I BROKE THE CD SHE LENT ME BEFORE?
SORRY, IT'S HARD TO SAY
YOU HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME
TALKING ABOUT THIS

YOU GUYS ARE DATING!
NO!
FIGHTS?
BETWEEN ME AND YOU?
what's he saying?
YOU AND MASHIMA...
Oh well
WHEN THERE IS A FIGHT, I WILL LISTEN TO YOUR COMPLAINTS
AH?
AH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT MUST HAVE MADE TROUBLE FOR MASHIMA...

THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG BETWEEN THEM
I have to thank her some how.
TO LET NIKAWA TAKE SO MUCH CARE OF ME...
I HEARD SOMEONE SAY
THAT NIKAWA THINKS THAT MASHIMA IS TROUBLESOME
AH, SO IT'S NOT SO SMOOTH BETWEEN THEM.
IT'S A PROBLEM OF TIME...

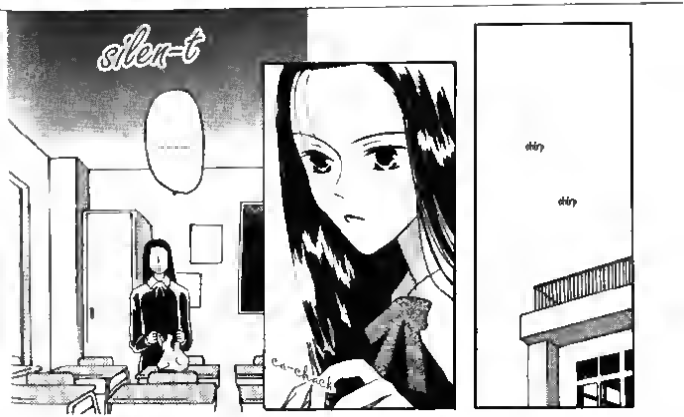


He never came to eat breakfast again.

[illegible] that [illegible] on...

Ah!
HEY MASHIMA!
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME?
can't ha take it ha any ha more! ha!
bang!
HEY MASHIMA!
HEY HEY!
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
MAN, TALKING ABOUT SCARY!

I have been too self centered and childish.
I surprised myself...
Because of the happiness,
I never thought I would cause so much trouble. (Just like a child...)
I am ashamed to see her.


silen-t
chirp
chirp

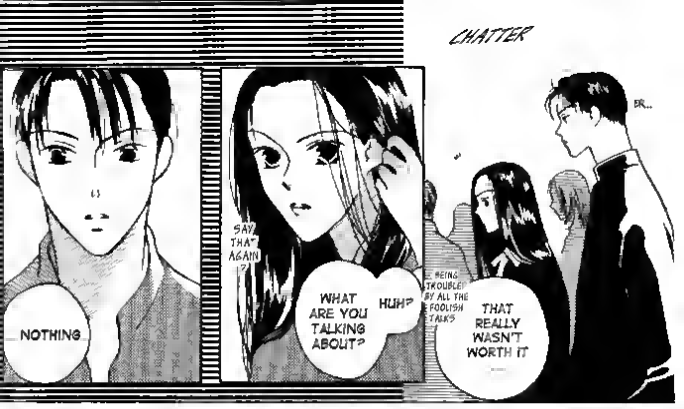
AH
break
chirp
chirp
THERE IS A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY.
ALL STUDENTS PLEASE PROCEED TO THE GYMNASIUM
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF WE WALKED BEHIND HIM.
HE'S GETTING SCARIER LATELY
EEK
EEK
ARG
ARG
OH
AH
LET'S GO, MASHIMA

WELL
NOW,
PLEASE WELCOME THE PRINCIPAL TO HAVE A WORD
LIKE I SAID LAST TIME,
ALL STUDENTS' MARKS HAVE BEEN DECREASING LATELY
OH
NO MATTER IF IT'S IN SCHOOL OR NOT
SIGH
LOOK AWAY
Even if I don't want to see him I still have to.
ぱぱっ

SOON, IT WILL BE WINTER BREAK.
KICK
THAT...
HUH?
Sometimes...
Sometimes, in the ... thing of something...
...HOPE EVERYONE FOLLOWS THE RULE OF LIFE.
Will be affected by ... things...
Such as rumors.

But I have to think of a way to resolve this.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT PEOPLE BEHIND ME ARE TRYING TO PASS SOMETHING ON TO YOU
HEY MASHIMA!
Lets have breakfast together"
That's all
NIKAWA!
THAT'S ALL FOR THE ASSEMBLY.

THAT...
THERE IS FISH FOR BREAKFAST, RIGHT?
YEAH, THERE IS ALSO SALAD AND SEAWEED.
IS IT BECAUSE YOU ATE TOO MUCH BEEF RICE AND NOW HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ME?
NO... NEVER MIND...
There should be an unexpected ending.


CHATTER
ER...
NOTHING
SAY THAT AGAIN?
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BEING TROUBLED BY ALL THE FOOLISH TALK?
THAT REALLY WASN'T WORTH IT

THAT'S ALL
Ahh
WE CAN COMMUNICATE EASILY
I JUST THINK THAT,
From that day on, there were no more depressing rumors about them.

-RUMORS-END-